

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wilt House
other Wilt/ Barnsley House (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 100 Lynch Street ___ not for publication
city, town Rockville ___ vicinity
county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Michael and Jamie Meier
street and number 100 Lynch Street telephone 301/ 251-2895
city, town Rockville state Maryland zip code 20850

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County liber 23900 folio 623
city, town Rockville tax map GR22 tax parcel Lot 1 Block 7 tax ID number 00231143

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☒ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
___ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
___ district	___ public	___ agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ landscape	Noncontributing
___ structure	___ both	___ commerce/trade	1
___ site		___ recreation/culture	___ buildings
___ object		___ defense	___ sites
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	___ 1
		___ education	___ structures
		___ religion	___ objects
		___ social	1
		___ transportation	1
		___ work in progress	1
		___ unknown	1
		___ vacant/not in use	1
		___ other:	1

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**

7. Description

Inventory No.

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary Description:

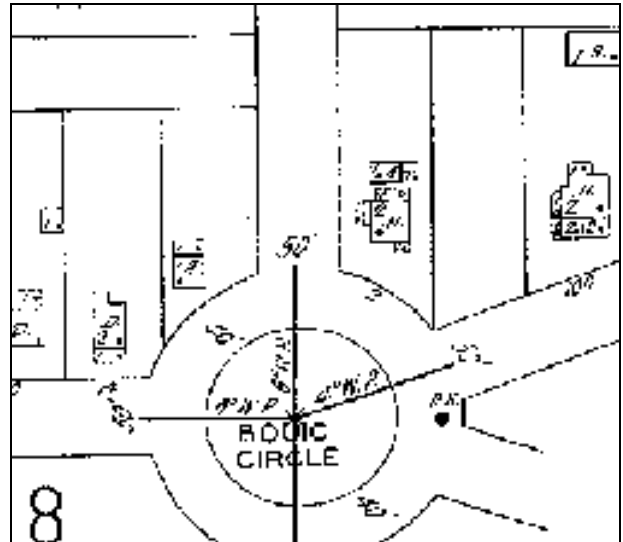
The Wilt/ Barnsley House is a 2-1/2-story gable front, frame house covered with cedar shingles. The core of the house has a rectangular massing and faces Lynch Street. A rear addition off the rear elevation accommodates a 1st floor extension over a basement level garage. This addition abuts the historic sun porch. The house has Craftsman stylistic elements and was the home of a beloved local teacher, Miss Lucy Barnsley.

Comprehensive Description

The Wilt/ Barnsley House was constructed in 1926 and is located at corner of Lynch Street and Anderson Avenue in the West End Park subdivision. A concrete walk leads from the front door stoop towards the street, but stops at a wood trellis several feet from the street curb. There are no sidewalks along the property's two street edges. A variety of ornamental trees and shrubs are located around the property. A non-historic gray wood utility shed is located in rear yard.



North façade, facing Lynch Street



1949 Sanborn Insurance Map

The 1st floor, flat roofed addition located on the rear elevation was added in 1985.¹ A two-bay plus garage is located under the addition and is accessed from Anderson Avenue by an asphalt drive. A rear porch apparent in the 1949 Sanborn map appears to have been incorporated into the 1985 rear addition. The rear addition's west elevation includes a recessed side entrance. A sun porch with a hipped roof is also on the west elevation (Anderson Avenue side), and is apparent in a 1949 Sanborn Map. The sun porch features a wide frieze band with rectangular panels. The foundation of the building is molded concrete block for the historic core of the house, and brick faced concrete under the rear porch and 1985 addition.

The moderately sloped gable roof is covered with gray asphalt shingles. The eaves project out from the roof-wall junction and have exposed rafter ends, which are covered by a plain fascia. Two brick chimneystacks pierce the medium slope roof – the east slope

¹ Peerless Rockville, Research Files, 100 Lynch St.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name
Continuation Sheet

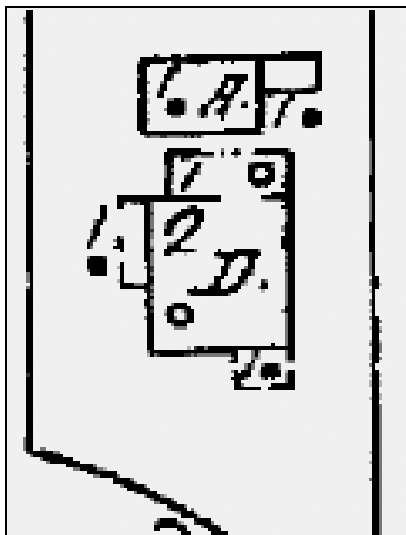
Number 7 Page 1

chimneystack is a small square stack and the larger west slope chimneystack is part of a wall chimney. The roof surface is also broken by a shed roof dormer on east slope and gabled wall dormer on the west elevation. The shed dormer has two square 4-pane windows, exposed rafter ends, a plain fascia board and side walls covered with asphalt shingles.

The house is clad in cedar wood shingles, except for the lower level garage walls on the rear elevation, which are brick faced. The dominant window type is 6/1 light sash with plain surrounds. Windows are single, paired, or grouped in a band of three. Other windows include a more recent bay window and large multi-paned fixed window on the west side of the rear addition, and one small 6-pane rectangular window on the west elevation, located near the corner with the façade wall.

The façade of the house is characterized by a single 6/1 window centrally located under the gable apex, followed by 2 paired 6/1 windows with shutters and window boxes, and a tripartite band of 6/1 windows with a side entry doorway on the first floor. Shutters on the façade and throughout the house are non-functional, vary in size and style, and are screwed into the wood siding. Over the door is a gable-roofed canopy with flattened arch opening. The canopy is supported by wrought iron scrolled posts and side balustrade on a concrete stoop. The front entry door has a top glazed panel and three horizontal blind panels. Sidelights, consisting of a top glazed panel and two lower blind panels, flank the door. Plain surrounds frame the front door and sidelights

A chimneystack divides the core structure's east elevation. The fenestration east of the chimneystack includes a window that appears to be at stair landing level and a side entry door with a non-historic metal canopy. Located on the opposite side of the chimneystack is a second floor window and first floor double window. The wood shingle siding continues past the core block until reaching a vertical seam; the vertical ends of the shingles form a continuous line rather than overlap. At this break line, the foundation material changes from molded concrete block to the brick facing that characterizes the garage foundation. The Sanborn map indicates this section originally housed a rear porch, which explains the break in the shingle coursing and foundation material.



1949 Sanborn map, detail
Outbuilding "A" (Auto house)
has been removed



North elevation foundation material change

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

The rear elevation of the house contains one window centrally placed under the gable peak and two evenly placed second floor windows. The garage addition extends out over 20' and has a flat membrane roof. This appendage is actually two stories, -- the garage section is at the basement level. Three modern 6/6 vinyl windows are unevenly spaced along the first floor level of the addition. The garage door is a solid modern overhead door.

The west elevation is a combination of the core structure, a one-story sun porch, and the west elevation of the rear addition.. A cross-gabled 2-story box bay wall dormer extends out from the primary wall plane midway along the core section elevation. Three windows are located on the second floor of this elevation, the central one in the bay. The continuation of the first floor rear addition contains a recent bay window and a squared multi-light fixed panel window, followed by a side entry door. The previously mentioned sun-porch abuts the red brick chimneystack and breast.



North/front elevations

8. Significance

Inventory No. _____

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Women's History</u>

Specific dates	1926, 1945-1962	Architect/Builder	
Construction dates	1926		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☒ Maryland Register☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary Significance

The house is being nominated for historical and cultural significance, Criterion B: identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society, and architectural and design significance, Criterion A: embodies the distinctive characteristics of a early 20th century vernacular house type, the Gable-front house type, which typically containing Craftsman style elements. The house is representative of the Historic Resource Management Plan, Historic Context 6: Maturation and Expansion of the County Seat: 1873 – 1931. The 1926 Wilt/ Barnsley House is locally significant for its association with a noted local teacher, Lucy Barnsley, (commonly known as Miss Lucy), and is a strong example of a vernacular gable-front house type associated with Rockville's early 20th century small-town era. Miss Lucy lived in the house with her daughter and son-in law from 1945 until 1962. In addition to representing a popular vernacular house type, the Wilt/ Barnsley House has several Craftsman stylistic elements.

Historical Background

Lot 1 in Block 7 of the 1890 West End Park subdivision was originally part of the land held by Harry Howes, a local carpenter and builder who resided next door at 104 Lynch Street. He sold the lot to William E. Wilt and Annie R. Wilt in 1925. The 1926 property tax assessment records indicate the construction of the house, valued at \$3,000.² These 1926 tax records for William E. Wilt's property show a \$500 automobile crossed out with the same color pencil that wrote in the \$3,000 house. In 1940, their son, George E. Wilt, sold the property to Margaret H. Gardner. Five years later, Margaret H. Gardner and Buell M. Gardner sold the property to Fred and Virginia (Barnsley) Maxwell. The property stayed in the Maxwell family for 54 years until 1999.

Women's History

Virginia Maxwell was the Supervisor of nursing homes in the Montgomery County Health Department.³ Her mother was Lucy Barnsley, a schoolteacher who played a prominent role in Rockville's educational and civic life. Miss Lucy, as she was known, lived with her daughter and son-in-law until her death in 1962. She was born Lucy Virginia Hughes in 1881 in Travilah, (now Potomac) Maryland, one of six children in the Hughes family.⁴ Upon completing her tenth year of school she received a scholarship to study teaching at Towson State Teachers College and graduated in 1901. She started her career by teaching grades one through seven in a one-room schoolhouse off Avery Road, which was outside the town of Rockville at that time. In 1906, she stopped teaching and

² Department of Taxation and Assessment,, Montgomery County Assessment Record, MSA Collection T 221-19, 4th Collection District.

³ Peerless Rockville files, House tour notes

⁴<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schoolodex/schooloverview.cfm>, Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary School, "About Lucy V. Barnsley"

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

married an Avery Road dairy farmer, Thomas T. Barnsley. Mr. and Mrs. Barnsley had three children, Theodore, J. Cullum and Virginia.

In 1927, the Barnsleys moved to Rockville, giving up the farm because of Thomas Barnsley's failing health. Lucy started teaching sixth grade at Rockville Elementary School, later named Park Street School.⁵ She specialized in teaching "slow learners and problem boys", and started the first summer session to help them. She was known as a patient, understanding teacher and children enjoyed her imagination and storytelling. During her long career she sometimes taught three generations of the same family.

Lucy Barnsley organized town residents and school children to plant Victory Gardens during WWII.⁶ She was active in the Rockville Inquiry Club, for "women who inquired into the needs of Rockville". The club donated 100 books to start the first library in Rockville. She was active in the Methodist Church, Girl Scouts of Rockville and the 4-H Club. Miss Lucy retired from teaching in 1951, after which she helped organize the Retired Teachers Association. Her efforts resulted in retired teachers being able to work as substitute teachers. Miss Lucy continued working with students as a substitute for the next six years.



Miss Lucy Barnsley, Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary School website, MCPS

In 1957, Lucy Barnsley was selected "Maryland Mother of the Year". In 1961 she was honored by being named the "Outstanding Graduate of Maryland State Teacher's College Over a 60-year Period". When she died in 1962, many former students wrote to the family telling them how much they appreciated having Miss Lucy as their teacher. A new school was dedicated in her honor in 1966: the Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary School -- the first school in Montgomery County to be named for a woman.

The house at 100 Lynch Street House has strong association with the later, yet very productive years in Miss Lucy's life (1945 – 1962). Miss Lucy reportedly lived on the first floor. Her daughter and son-in-law, Virginia and Fred Maxwell, lived on the second floor. During this time she continued teaching, enabled retired teachers to continue working as substitute teachers, was active in senior organizations, and received two awards recognizing her work on a statewide level. Park Street Elementary School where she taught for most of her career was recently demolished.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Rockville: A Portrait of A City, Eileen McGuckian, Hillsboro Press, Franklin, Tennessee, 2001, pg. 121.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Architecture

The Gable-front vernacular houses, such as the one at 100 Lynch Street, were popularized in the early twentieth century by the Arts and Crafts movement.⁷ In the northeast, many early 20th century neighborhoods are dominated by both stylized and simple folk examples built in this form. These houses were very prominent designs in the mail order house catalogues of the period. There is, however, no evidence to indicate that the subject house is a catalogue house. The third floor, or attic level of the house has been renovated and the rafters are not visible. Other structural members that are visible do not contain any numbering stamp that would indicate the house was indeed ordered from a catalogue. The house type, the time period and the 1926 assessed value of the house (\$3,000) are, however consistent with catalogue houses from the 1920s. An examination of descriptions and pricing of house plans from these publications provides a financial context for residential building in this period.

The Sears, Roebuck catalog of houses, 1926 suggests that houses of this general scale could be purchased “already cut and fitted” anywhere from \$1,800 to \$2,300. The catalogue indicates additional costs for plumbing, heating, electrical, and sewage systems that could easily cost an additional \$1,000. A letter from a customer excerpted in the catalogue claims to have “saved between \$1,500 - \$2,000” building the house themselves providing a reference for construction costs.⁸

The language used to promote these houses in the catalogues conveys common themes of economy with comfort. Gordon-Van Tine Co.’s 1923 catalogue of mail-order houses include several Gable-front models.⁹ The description of one model (No. 523) assures the potential customer that “From the standpoint of appearance, comfort and economy it is the design which you will want”.¹⁰ Another Gable-front house, (No. 577), a “Particularly Attractive Two-Story Home” is described as “a home that is justly popular, because it is roomy, as well as economical, although the size is modified to permit the greatest economy of material.”¹¹ Other models of this type



1923 Gordon Van tine Co.'s, Catalogue (No. 577)



Wilt/ Barnsley House 100 Lynch Street

Note similarity of massing, orientation, roof type, and symmetrical fenestration.

⁷ McAlesters, Virginia and Lee. New York, NY, Alfred A. Knopf Inc. 1986, pg. 90.

⁸ Although the Wilts purchased the property from Henry Howe, who was a builder carpenter who lived next door, there is no evidence that Mr. Howe constructed the house. In fact, in 1925, a year before the house shows up on the tax rolls, the Howes sold their property next door to Samuel and Isaac Grossman, suggesting they had relocated.

⁹ 117 House Designs of the Twenties: Gordon Van Tine Co. reprint of 1923 catalogue, 1992, the Athenaeum Publishing Company, Philadelphia.

¹⁰ Ibid. pg. 59.

¹¹ Ibid., page 83.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

are described as “A Good Looking and Inexpensive Home” or “A Popular Home – Fine For a Narrow Lot”.¹² Like the contemporary Foursquare house type, the Gable-front house was a lot of house for the money.

Many urban communities experienced a boom in their working middle class population, due to the economic and industrial expansion of the 1920s. As noted in a 1926 Sears, Roebuck house catalogue, customers such as American Magnesia Co., in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., Standard Oil Co., in Carlinville, Ill, and Goodyear Rubber Co., in Akron, Ohio built neighborhoods of mail-order houses for their workers. This form of paternalist capitalism promoted homeownership and loyalty to the company.

Rockville was not part of this 1910-20s industrial worker housing phenomena that created neighborhoods of catalogue houses. As noted in the Rockville Historic Resource Management Plan, early 20th century industrial expansion in Maryland was limited to Baltimore and the surrounding area.¹³ The plan’s “Historic Context #6: Rockville Maturation and Expansion of the County Seat, 1873-1931”, characterizes the 1893-1931 building phase as dominated by Colonial and Georgian Revival style pattern book houses, with fewer of the Arts and Crafts small-scale residences. Rockville lacked the industrial economy that built mail-order neighborhoods and the 1920s and 30s were not decades of rapid growth in the small town.

Houses such as the Wilt/ Barnsley House do not represent a sizeable percentage of Rockville’s housing stock, and there is not a defined concentration of this house type in the city. The Gable-front vernacular house type is nonetheless significant, adding Rockville’s architectural heritage and the character of the West End neighborhood’s built environment. This compact economical house represents of a distinct period of American architectural history associated with the rise of the middle class and increased access to home ownership in early twentieth century Rockville.

¹² Ibid., page 62, 100.

¹³ Historic Resource Management Plan, Department of Planning, City of Rockville, Rockville Maryland, 1986. Page 109

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

Chain of Title

1919 (L 278 F 237) Emma L. Yoder, widow conveyed to Bessie L. Howes and Harry G. Howes the following described real estate land and premises situate Lots 1, 2, 4 in Block 7 No. 43 in Plat Book No. A, Plat No. 7 in Plat Book No. TB.

1925 (L 382 F 279) Harry G. Howes and Bessie L. Howes conveyed to William E. Wilt and Annie R. Wilt.

1940 (L 774 F 1) George E. Wilt, son of William E. and Annie R. Wilt, and wife conveyed to Margaret H. Gardner

1945 (L 960 F 401) Margaret H. Gardner and Buell M. Gardner transferred deed to Fred W. Maxwell and Virginia C. Maxwell for \$5 Lot #1 part of Lot #4 in block numbered seven (7).

1999 Maxwell, Fred W & V C conveyed to Buscemi, Anthony & K (L 17655 F 39)

2003 Buscemi, Anthony & K conveyed to Meier, Michael J & Jamie W (l 23900 F 623) Map GR22 Subdivision 234 Block 7 Lot 1.

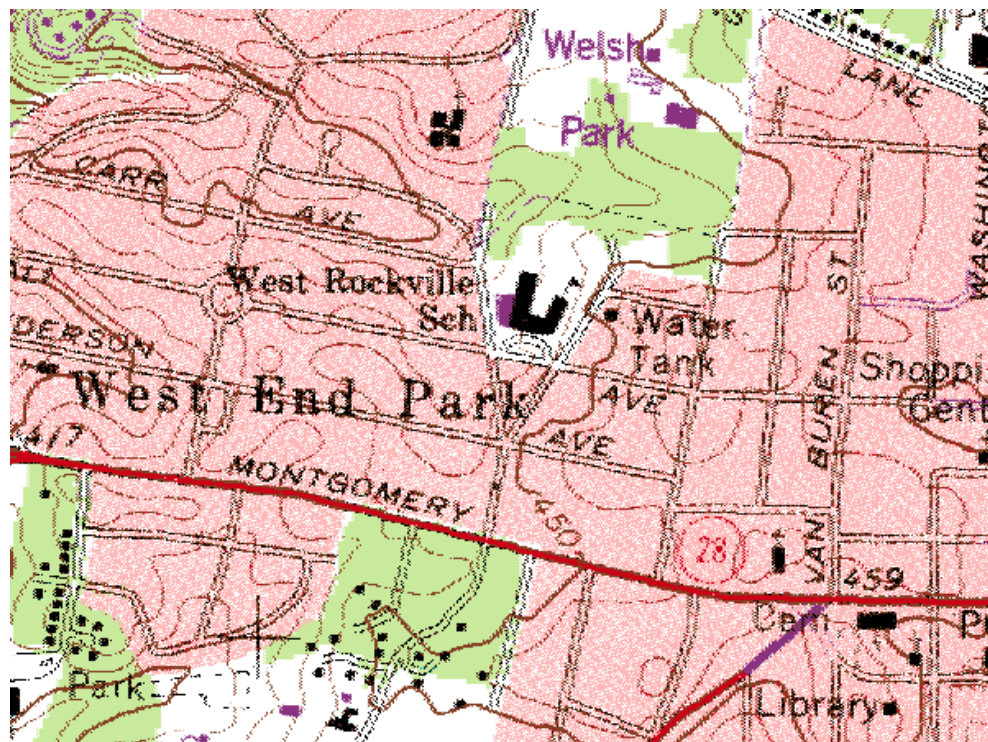
Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5



9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Records, Montgomery County Plat and Land Records, Montgomery County
A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1986
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schoolodex/schooloverview.cfm> Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .0255 acresAcreage of historical setting Quadrangle name Rockville (MD)Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Monument Park, Tax Map GR22, P207

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jeffrey Winstel, AICP/ Historic Preservation Planner III		
organization	City of Rockville	date	April 12, 2007
street & number	111 Maryland Avenue	telephone	240/314-8232
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600